



McGregor W. Scott
United States Attorney
Eastern District of California

Sacramento
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100
Sacramento CA 95814
Tel (916) 554-2700
TTY (916) 554-2855

NEWS RELEASE

Fresno
2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401
Fresno, CA 93721
Tel (559) 497-4000
TTY (559) 497-4500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2007

Contact: Rosemary Shaul, 916-554-2802

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

**SACRAMENTO MAN INDICTED FOR DAMAGE
TO ENERGY FACILITY AND BOMB THREAT**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned a two count Indictment charging LONNIE CHARLES DENISON, 32, of Sacramento, with attempted damage to an energy facility and a bomb threat. The charges relate to the April 15, 2007, shutdown of the California Independent Systems Operator (CAL-ISO) computer system.

The case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kyle Reardon, who is prosecuting the case, DENISON worked as a contract employee at CAL-ISO. The Indictment alleges that on April 15, 2007, DENISON entered the CAL-ISO building in Folsom, California and pushed the "Emergency Power Off" button, resulting in a shutdown of the computer systems that regulate the exchange of electricity between the power grids in the western United States. In addition, DENISON is charged with making a bomb threat through his computer e-mail address to his supervisor. The bomb threat led to the evacuation of CAL-ISO and a search by the Folsom Police Department.

The maximum statutory penalty for the indicted charges is 20 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine for attempted damage to an energy facility and ten years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine for the bomb threat. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

###